

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 NEA-10 EB-11 FEA-02 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 451

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 2140

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EEC, EGEN, BE

SUBJECT: BELGIAN REACTION TO LUXEMBOURG MEETING OF
EC COUNCIL, APRIL 1 AND 2

REF: (A) BRUSSELS 2073; (B) LONDON 4406

1. INTERNAL BELGIAN FONMIN DOCUMENT ASSESSING LUXEMBOURG MEETING
READ TO EMBOFF APRIL 5 REVEALS THAT THE DRAFTERS ARE CURRENTLY MOST
PESSIMISTIC ABOUT FUTURE OF EEC. WHILE GOB HAD BEEN FULLY
BRIEFED BY HMG CONCERNING SUBSTANCE OF CALLAGHAN'S
LUXEMBOURG SPEECH, GOB DELEGATES WERE STUNNED BY ITS
UNPLEASANT TONE AND WHAT DOCUMENT DESCRIBES AS THE BRITISH
DEMAND FOR AN OVERHAUL OF THE EEC. CALLAGHAN IS REPORTED
AS HAVING SAID THAT UNLESS HMG GOT SUCH AN OVERHAUL,
BRITIAN WOULD LEAVE THE COMMUNITY.

2. IN THE AUTHORS' VIEW, HMG WANTS TO REDUCE THE COMMUNITY
EITHER TO A FREE-TRADE REGIME FOR INDUSTRIAL GOODS ONLY
OR TO REDUCE IT TO SIX MEMBERS. IN EITHER EVENT, THE
FONMIN PAPER ARGUES THE EEC WOULD BE DELIVERED A
POTENTIALLY FATAL BLOW.

3. COMMENTING ON THE PAPER, A FONMIN OFFICIAL
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EXPERIENCED IN EEC AFFAIRS REMARKED THAT HIGHER-UPS IN

THE MINISTRY "FEEL BETRAYED". THEY HAD EXPECTED THAT UK ENTRY INTO THE EEC WOULD MEAN A BIGGER, MORE IMPORTANT, MORE OUTWARD LOOKING AND, ULTIMATELY, MORE INTEGRATED COMMUNITY. INSTEAD, BRITISH ENTRY HAS PUT A STOP TO THE EEC AS A GROWING ORGANISM.

4. COMMENT: IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER THIS GLOOMY STAFF ASSESSMENT IS SHARED IN THE HIGHER REACHES OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. DAVIGNON, FOR EXAMPLE, HAS INDICATED HE CONSIDERS CALLAGHAN'S APPROACH AS A BARGAINING PLOY (REFTEL A). BOOCHEVER

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